

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1818

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
to provide grants for master teacher programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 28, 1999

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for master teacher programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Master
5 Teacher Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MASTER TEACHER PROGRAMS.**

7 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating part E as part G; and

1 (2) by inserting after part D the following new
2 part:

3 **“PART E—MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM**

4 **“SEC. 2351. FINDINGS.**

5 “Congress makes the following findings:

6 “(1) The National Commission on Teaching
7 and America’s Future reports that more than 12
8 percent of all newly hired teachers enter the work-
9 force with no training at all, and another 15 percent
10 enter the workforce without having fully met State
11 standards.

12 “(2) Annually, more than 50,000 people who
13 lack the training required for their jobs have entered
14 teaching with emergency or provisional licenses.

15 “(3) Only 500 of the Nation’s 1,200 education
16 schools meet common professional standards.

17 “(4) Fewer than 75 percent of all teachers have
18 studied child development, and learning and teach-
19 ing methods, have degrees in their subject areas,
20 and have passed State licensing requirements.

21 “(5) Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of all secondary school teachers,
22 and more than 30 percent of secondary school math-
23 ematics teachers, do not have even a college minor
24 in their main subject area.

1 “(6) 64 percent of urban school districts allow
2 teachers who are not certified or licensed to teach
3 under an emergency certification or license, and 40
4 percent of those districts allow the hiring of long-
5 term substitute teachers.

6 **“SEC. 2352. PURPOSES.**

7 “The purposes of this part are—

8 “(1) to give local educational agencies the re-
9 sources to establish master teacher programs;

10 “(2) to increase the level of student perform-
11 ance at elementary schools and secondary schools by
12 improving the quality of education provided by the
13 teachers at such schools;

14 “(3) to give local educational agencies the re-
15 sources to fund efforts by teachers at elementary
16 schools and secondary schools to become board cer-
17 tified; and

18 “(4) to give local educational agencies the re-
19 sources to enable such agencies to provide salary in-
20 centives to teachers to become board certified.

21 **“SEC. 2353. DEFINITIONS.**

22 “In this part:

23 “(1) BOARD CERTIFIED.—The term ‘board cer-
24 tified’ means successful completion of all require-

1 ments to be certified by the National Board for Pro-
 2 fessional Teaching Standards.

3 “(2) MASTER TEACHER.—The term ‘master
 4 teacher’ means a teacher who is certified by the Na-
 5 tional Board for Professional Teaching Standards
 6 and has been teaching for not less than 3 years.

7 “(3) NOVICE TEACHER.—The term ‘novice
 8 teacher’ means a teacher who has been teaching for
 9 not more than 3 years at a public elementary school
 10 or secondary school.

11 **“SEC. 2354. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

12 “(a) AUTHORITY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
 14 to award grants on a competitive basis to local edu-
 15 cational agencies to establish master teacher pro-
 16 grams as described in subsection (d).

17 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
 18 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to
 19 local educational agencies that—

20 “(A) provide funding assistance to teachers
 21 to become board certified, including the provi-
 22 sion of the board certification fee to become
 23 board certified; and

24 “(B) provide salary incentives to teachers
 25 who become board certified.

1 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—To the
2 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall
3 award grants under paragraph (1) so that such
4 grants are distributed among the school districts
5 with the highest concentration of teachers who are
6 not certified or licensed or are provisionally certified
7 or licensed.

8 “(b) DURATION.—A grant under subsection (a) shall
9 be awarded for a period of 5 years.

10 “(c) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded
11 under subsection (a), shall be determined based on—

12 “(1) the total amount appropriated for a fiscal
13 year under section 2360; and

14 “(2) the extent of the concentration of teachers
15 who are not certified or licensed or are provisionally
16 certified or licensed in the school district involved.

17 “(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The master teacher
18 programs described in subsection (a) shall—

19 “(1) provide funding assistance to teachers to
20 become board certified, including the provision of the
21 board certification fee; and

22 “(2) provide salary incentives to teachers who
23 become board certified.

1 **“SEC. 2355. APPLICATIONS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency desir-
 3 ing a grant under section 2354 shall submit an application
 4 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accom-
 5 panied by such information as the Secretary may reason-
 6 ably require.

7 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursu-
 8 ant to subsection (a) shall include—

9 “(1) a statement describing the program activi-
 10 ties for which amounts received under the grant will
 11 be used;

12 “(2) a statement describing the goals and objec-
 13 tives for the program activities described in para-
 14 graph (1), including a goal of increasing the percent-
 15 age of teachers who become board certified and en-
 16 hancing overall student achievement; and

17 “(3) a statement describing the manner in
 18 which the goals and objectives described in para-
 19 graph (2) will be measured.

20 “(c) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary
 21 shall make a determination regarding an application sub-
 22 mitted under subsection (a) based on a recommendation
 23 of a peer review panel described in subsection (d), and
 24 any other criteria that the Secretary determines to be ap-
 25 propriate.

26 “(d) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
 2 tablish a peer review panel to review and make rec-
 3 ommendations as to whether applications submitted
 4 pursuant to subsection (a) should be approved.

5 “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In making a rec-
 6 ommendation described in paragraph (1), the panel
 7 shall give consideration to the same factors that the
 8 Secretary is required to consider under paragraphs
 9 (2) and (3) of section 2354(a).

10 **“SEC. 2356. PAYMENTS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grant payments shall be made
 12 under this part on an annual basis.

13 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each local edu-
 14 cational agency that receives a grant under section 2354
 15 shall use not more than 2 percent of the amount awarded
 16 under the grant for administrative costs.

17 “(c) DENIAL OF GRANT.—If the Secretary deter-
 18 mines that a local educational agency has failed to make
 19 substantial progress in attaining the performance objec-
 20 tives and goals described in section 2355(b)(2), such an
 21 agency shall not be eligible for a grant payment under this
 22 part in the next succeeding year.

23 **“SEC. 2357. REPORTS.**

24 “(a) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than
 25 6 months after receipt of reports described in subsection

1 (b), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Com-
 2 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
 3 Senate and the Committee on Education and the Work-
 4 force of the House of Representatives a report of program
 5 activities funded under this part.

6 “(b) REPORT BY APPLICANT.—Not later than March
 7 31, 2004, each local educational agency receiving a grant
 8 under this part shall submit a report to the Secretary de-
 9 scribing whether the program established under section
 10 2354 was effective in increasing student achievement for
 11 all students, and in increasing the percentage of teachers
 12 who have become board certified.

13 **“SEC. 2358. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

14 “The Secretary may not award a grant to a local edu-
 15 cational agency under section 2354 unless the local edu-
 16 cational agency agrees that, with respect to costs to be
 17 incurred by the agency in carrying out activities for which
 18 the grant was awarded, the agency shall provide (directly
 19 or through donations from public or private entities) in
 20 non-Federal contributions an amount equal to 25 percent
 21 of the amount of the grant awarded to the agency.

22 **“SEC. 2359. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program
 24 under this part in which assistance is provided to a teacher
 25 to pay the National Board for Professional Teaching

1 Standard board certification fee to become board certified,
2 assistance may only be provided if the teacher makes
3 agreements as follows:

4 “(1) The teacher will enter and complete the
5 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
6 board certification program to become board cer-
7 tified.

8 “(2) Upon becoming board certified, the teacher
9 will teach in the public school system for a period
10 of not less than 5 years.

11 “(b) BREACH OF AGREEMENTS.—A teacher receiving
12 assistance described in subsection (a) is liable to the local
13 educational agency that provides such assistance for the
14 amount of the certification fee described in subsection (a)
15 if such teacher—

16 “(1) voluntarily withdraws or terminates the
17 certification program before taking the examination
18 for board certification;

19 “(2) is dismissed from the certification program
20 before becoming board certified; or

21 “(3) fails to comply with the agreement under
22 subsection (a).

23 “(c) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—In the
24 case of a teacher making an agreement under subsection
25 (a), the Secretary shall provide for the waiver or suspen-

1 sion of liability under subsection (b) if compliance by the
 2 teacher with the agreements involved is impossible, would
 3 involve extreme hardship to the individual, or if enforce-
 4 ment of the agreement with respect to the teacher would
 5 be unconscionable.

6 “(d) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Subject to
 7 subsection (c), any amount that a local educational agency
 8 is entitled to recover under subsection (b) shall be paid
 9 to such an agency not later than the expiration of the 3-
 10 year period beginning on the date the local educational
 11 agency becomes so entitled.

12 **“SEC. 2360. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 14 this part, \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000
 15 through 2004.

16 **“PART F—COMPETENCY EXAMINATION**
 17 **PROGRAM**

18 **“SEC. 2361. COMPETENCY EXAMINATION GRANTS.**

19 “(a) EXAMINATION.—The Secretary shall enter into
 20 an agreement with the Center for Science, Mathematics,
 21 and Engineering of the National Research Council of the
 22 National Academy of Sciences, under which the Center
 23 shall develop an advanced competency examination for ele-
 24 mentary school and secondary school teachers of mathe-
 25 matics and science.

1 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants to
2 local educational agencies to assist the agencies in
3 supplementing the salaries of teachers that pass the exam-
4 ination described in subsection (a). A local educational
5 agency that receives such a grant for a year shall provide
6 an additional \$2500 in salary for that year to teachers
7 that have passed the examination, and that teach in
8 schools served by the agency.

9 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part
11 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2004.”.

12 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

13 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
15 204 the following:

16 **“SEC. 204A. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

17 “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
18 enter into contracts with appropriate entities to conduct
19 information campaigns to broaden awareness of, and en-
20 courage mid-career professionals and other qualified indi-
21 viduals to consider, professional opportunities relating to
22 elementary or secondary education.

23 “(b) ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Announcements distributed
24 as part of such an information campaign shall publicize
25 the availability of Federal assistance under this Act to ob-

1 tain the necessary education, and to obtain certification
2 or licensing, for the professional opportunities.

3 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The provisions of sections
4 205 and 206 shall not apply to assistance provided under,
5 and activities carried out under, this section.

6 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
9 2000 through 2004.”.

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